

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 TRSY-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /096 W

-----108955 090037Z /64

R 071521Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2762

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CI, NL

SUBJECT: GON EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT MISSING PERSONS IN CHILE

1. MFA SUMMONED CHILEAN CHARGE JUNE 2 TO GIVE EXPRESSION TO GON "EXTREME CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION SURROUNDING SOME 2,500 PEOPLE MISSING IN CHILE." ACCORDING TO MFA SPOKESMAN CHARGE WAS TOLD THAT DUTCH GOVERNMENT DEPLORED FACT THAT A HUNGER STRIKE BY RELATIVES OF THE MISSING PERSONS IN CHILE LAST YEAR HAD REMAINED WITHOUT EFFECT. ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, ALTHOUGH GON WAS UNABLE TO ACT IN THE SAME WAY AS POLITICAL PARTIES AND PRESSURE GROUPS, IT HAD BEEN DOING SOMETHING IN ITS OWN WAY AND THROUGH ITS OWN CHANNELS ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE SINCE THE 1973 COUP. HOWEVER, THE DELICATE SITUATION OF THE CHILEAN HUNGER STRIKERS MADE IT INADVISABLE TO GIVE DETAILS ON THE POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE DUTCH EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO.

2. COMMENT: DUTCH PUBLIC OPINION HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE POST-ALLENDE GOVERNMENT IN CHILE, ALTHOUGH DURING RECENT MONTHS THE FOCUS ON CHILE HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY SUPPLANTED BY CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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PRACTICES IN ARGENTINA. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN SOME LOCAL CRITICISM HERE OF THE DUTCH SOCCER TEAM FOR SUPPOSEDLY BOLSTERING THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE BY PLAYING IN THE WORLD CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS. SOME OF THIS HAS RUBBED OFF ON THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT, WHOSE POSITION HAS NOT BEEN MADE ANY EASIER BY REPORTED STATEMENTS OF THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES WHICH FAILED TO REFLECT LOCAL CONCERNS AND WHICH MANY JUDGED

TO BE ILL-CONSIDERED. LAST WEEK THERE WERE HUNGER STRIKES
IN EIGHT DUTCH CITIES IN SUPPORT OF SIMILAR STRIKES IN SANTIAGO
BY FAMILIES OF MISSING CHILEANS. THERE WERE ALSO QUESTIONS
IN PARLIAMENT CONCERNING GON ATTITUDE TOWARD THE HUNGER STRIKE
AND MISSING PERSONS IN CHILE. THE NETHERLANDS TRADE UNION
FEDERATION (FNV) CALLED FOR GON ACTION. IT SEEMED ALMOST
WITH RELIEF THAT MFA UNDERLINED ITS HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE TO
THE CHILEAN CHARGE HERE ON FRIDAY.
BROWN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, MISSING PERSONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978THEHA03131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780240-0620
Format: TEL
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780684/aaaacuhu.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f3cacc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2446794
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GON EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT MISSING PERSONS IN CHILE
TAGS: SHUM, CI, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f3cacc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014